



Branching Out

September 23, 2011

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia. www.vanaturally.com/tree

TREE meetings:

We need ideas for future meetings! Make recommendations to Charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Local Events:

Natural Heritage Program 25th Anniversary

October 8th

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Program will celebrate its 25th anniversary Saturday, Oct. 8, with field days at natural area preserves across the state. The field days are free and open to the public. They offer a unique opportunity to experience some of Virginia's best natural communities. Each event will include guided group hikes and natural-history interpretation by DCR Natural Heritage staff and volunteers. Hosting multiple field days on the same day, statewide, is a first for the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. Area events will be held at the following natural area preserves:

Dameron Marsh, Northumberland County

Hughlett Point, Northumberland County

To read a description of each preserve and register online, go to:

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/spevents.shtml

Advance registration is required. Registration also can be made by calling 804-396-4327.

Stewardship Virginia runs September through the end of October. Any environmental project counts and can be registered on the site. Individuals, businesses and organizations are encouraged to register their projects with Stewardship Virginia, making details available for those wanting to join in. For more information, including a registration packet, call 1-877-42-WATER. Visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship for more information about volunteer projects and a registration form.

Other Events:

2011 Hampton Roads Solar Tour -

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 1 & 2, 10 AM to 4 PM - FREE

Organized by the Hampton Roads Green Building Council's Homes Committee

See solar and other innovative & sustainable technologies at work in homes & businesses and talk to owners, designers & installers. Technologies on display include PV and solar thermal systems, wind turbines, green roofing and water catchment systems as well as LEED and passive solar design.

For more information or to register for the tour and receive a tour guide, visit www.HRSolarTour.com or call 214-6732.

2011 VAST Professional Development Institute: The New Face of Science Education

November 17th - 19th, Hotel Roanoke

Please join us for our annual PDI November 17-19, 2011 at the beautiful Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia. It is an event that promises to be an intense, exciting, and meaningful few days of professional development. We are working on a wonderful and engaging program that is sure to capture your intellect and attention, but we can't have a PDI without you attending and presenting! We all learn from each other. Consider sharing your successes, breakthroughs, incredible content knowledge, and amazing pedagogy with your colleagues. We have identified some strands under which you may choose to focus your attention, but don't feel limited by them. As the title suggests, think about ways in which you have changed the face of science education. For more information, visit www.vast.org.

Informal Educator Workshop offered at the Virginia Aquarium

Date TBD 2012, Virginia Aquarium

From novice to expert, informal education practitioners typically have limited opportunities to reflect effectively upon their practice as a means to inform and improve their communication skills. Participants will have fun with engaging activities that lead to introspection about their practice. Activities draw on current research on learning and teaching in museums, and include topics: learning styles, constructing knowledge, and conversations. Discussions encourage participants to reflect upon individual, programmatic, and institutional practices. Activities based on programs designed by the Lawrence Hall of Science and funded by IMLS and NSF. For more information contact Karen Burns at kpburns@virginiaaquarium.com or 757/385-0272

Communicating Ocean Sciences to Informal Audiences (COSIA)

Date TBD 2012, Virginia Aquarium

COSIA is a program that teams scientists at colleges and universities with local aquariums and marine science centers, and deploy undergraduates and graduate students to teach the public about current discoveries in ocean sciences. This course provides undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to explore and apply current research on learning and instructional

strategies geared toward informal learning environments. Working with university professors and educators at the informal science education institutions, students get first-hand experiences communicating ocean science and have the opportunity to design an activity to be implemented at an aquarium or science center. A teaching manual and resource guide provide in-depth instructions, session write-ups, and materials lists for teaching the course at your institution. For more information contact Karen Burns at kpburns@virginiaaquarium.com or 757/385-0272

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Acorn collection Interested in cleaning your yard and helping the department of Forestry at the same time? You can visit <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/mgt/acorn-collect.htm>. By collecting acorns you help reforestation projects across the Commonwealth.

Attention Photobugs: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is looking for your photos. -- Through March of 2012, the EPA's State of the Environment Project is collecting photos that capture images of the state of the environment. Photos submitted may be used in an Earth Day 2012 display to be produced by the EPA and National Archives. For more information visit the project's website, <http://www.epa.gov/environmentphotoproject/>

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

Virginia Grant Money Available for education and restoration activities!!

The Chesapeake Bay Restoration Advisory Committee is accepting grant applications to conduct Chesapeake Bay-related education and restoration activities. The grants are funded with monies from the sale of the special Chesapeake Bay license plate "Friend of the Chesapeake." This year \$307,971 in grant monies will be awarded to eligible applicants.

The deadline for submitting a proposal for 2012 support grants is October 1, 2011. Grant funds will be awarded in May-June 2012. To be eligible for receiving a grant, applicants should submit proposals emphasizing environmental education or restoration and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay. Projects focusing on environmental education should increase public awareness and knowledge about the Bay, and projects of a restoration and conservation nature should be action oriented. Grants are awarded for one year, except in special circumstances. Grant funds may not be used to supplant existing state or local general fund appropriations.

Applications will be accepted from private not-for-profit conservation organizations, schools and universities, and governmental agencies whose

projects will affect water bodies that are located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. There is no limit on the amount that an applicant may request. More information on the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, including the application, grant guidelines, and a catalogue of past projects can be found [here](#).

Jobs

Director of VISTA Science Education

The George Mason University, Center for Restructuring Education in Science and Technology (CREST) in the College of Education and Human Development is seeking a full-time professional faculty member to serve as Director of Science Education for the Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement (VISTA), and to collaborate directly with the principal investigator on the overall leadership and management of the project.

For full consideration, applicants must apply online at <http://jobs.gmu.edu> for position number FA56Az; complete the faculty application; and attach a cover letter, resume, and a list of three references with their contact information. If you have problems with your materials please contact ghaller@gmu.edu

Manager, Urban Forests Program

Washington DC

American Forests protects and restores forests, helping to preserve the health of our planet for the benefit of its inhabitants. We are looking for an enthusiastic project manager who can help us re-build our Urban Forests Program with a strong emphasis on collaborative learning and communication about the ecological and societal benefits of urban forests.

For confidential consideration, please forward resume and cover letter to: jobs@americanforests.org

Learning Barge Educator/Deckhand

Environmental Education - Seasonal, part-time. Non-profit Elizabeth River Project is looking for an environmental educator/deckhand for the world's first floating wetland classroom. Minimum wage for meeting qualifications is \$10 an hour. Email resume and references to Robin Dunbar, Education Director, rdunbar@elizabethriver.org

Be Water Wise Project Coordinator (part-time)

Summary: The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) is seeking a dynamic, creative, highly motivated professional to coordinate our Be Water Wise Program.

This is a part-time, primarily telework position. Basic expenses will be covered. Position does not include benefits.

Hours: 20-25 hours a week

Contract date: 10 months (September 15, 2011-July 15, 2012)*

To apply: Please email your resume, cover letter and a writing sample to hr@neefusa.org

Closing date: Open until filled

Volunteer Opportunities

Youth Ambassador

Belle Isle State Park is seeking a youth ambassador, age 16 to 26 years old, to represent and promote the park through social media and traditional promotions. Training, uniform, and use of new camera are provided. Volunteer commitment of 10 hours per month required. Contact Charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.com for information and application.

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov